

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Before claim 1, change ~~Claims~~ to WE CLAIM:

Cancel claims 1-24 without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter therein and substitute new claims 25-50 therefor:

Claims 1-24 (cancelled)

25. (new) Microcrystalline paraffin as solid product, prepared by catalytic hydroisomerization of FT paraffins having a carbon chain length distribution in the range from 20 to 105 at temperatures above 200°C.

26. (new) Microcrystalline paraffin according to claim 25, wherein, at 25°C the paraffin is not liquid but at least paste-like to solid with a needle penetration value of less than  $100 \times 10^{-1}$  mm, measured in accordance with DIN 51579.

27. (new) Microcrystalline paraffin according to claim 25, wherein the paraffin is free of aromatic and heterocyclic compounds.

28. (new) Microcrystalline paraffin according to claim 25, wherein the paraffin is free of naphthenes.

29. (new) Microcrystalline paraffin according to claim 25, having a proportion by weight of isoalkanes that is greater than that of n-alkanes in the paraffin.

30. (new) Microcrystalline paraffin according to any of claim 25, characterized by use properties which, even though comparable with those of microcrystalline paraffins based on petroleum, are in between these and the properties of the FT paraffins used in the preparation.

31. (new) Process for preparing a microcrystalline paraffin, in particular a microcrystalline paraffin according to claim 25, by catalytic hydroisomerization by steps of:

A. use of FT paraffins as starting material, having carbon atoms in the range from 20 to 105;  
and

B. use of a catalyst;

C. use of a process temperature above 200°C; and

D. action of pressure in the presence of hydrogen.

32. (new) Process according to claim 31, wherein the catalyst is based on a zeolite, preferably a  $\beta$ -zeolite, having a pore size between 0.50 and 0.80 nm as support material and a metal of transition group 8 as active component.

33. (new) Process according to claim 31, wherein the process is carried out at elevated pressure and elevated temperature.

34. (new) Process according to claim 33, wherein the elevated temperature is a process temperature from 200 to 270°C.

35. (new) Process according to claim 33, wherein the pressure is 2 to 20 Mpa.

36. (new) Process according to claim 33, wherein the pressure is 3 to 8 Mpa.

37. (new) Process according to claim 33, wherein the elevated temperature is a process temperature of 230 to 270°C.

38. (new) Process according to claim 31, comprising a step of feeding hydrogen to the paraffin, characterized by a feed ratio of hydrogen to FT paraffin from 100:1 to 2000:1 standard m<sup>3</sup> per m<sup>3</sup>.

39. (new) Process according to claim 31, comprising a step of feeding hydrogen to the paraffin, characterized by a feed ratio of hydrogen to FT paraffin from 250:1 to 600:1 standard m<sup>3</sup> per m<sup>3</sup>.

40. (new) Process according claim 31, wherein the process is carried out at a loading from 0.1 to 2.0 v/vh, preferably 0.2 to 0.8 v/vh.

41. (new) Process according to claim 31, wherein the catalyst has a pore size between 0.55 to 0.76 nm.

42. (new) Process according to claim 41, wherein the catalyst comprises a hydrogenation metal component of transition group VIII of the Periodic Table.

43. (new) Process according to claim 42, wherein the catalyst comprises platinum as hydrogenation metal.

44. (new) Process according to claim 43, wherein the platinum content of the catalyst is 0.1 to 2.0% by mass, preferably 0.4 to 1.0% by mass, based on a catalyst fired at 800°C.

45. (new) Process according to claim 31, wherein the FT paraffin is used in a solidification point range from 70 to 105°C, preferably with solidification points of 70, 80, 95 or 105°C.

46. (new) Process according to claim 31, wherein the microcrystalline paraffins are prepared from the FT paraffins in a single process step, optionally additionally with removal of the short-chain constituents.

47. (new) Use of the microcrystalline paraffins according to claim 25, in the pharmaceutical or cosmetics sector or in the food industry.

48. (new) Use of the microcrystalline paraffins according to claim 25, in the pharmaceutical or cosmetics sector or in the food industry.

49. (new) Use of microcrystalline paraffins prepared according to claim 31, in the pharmaceutical or cosmetics sector or in the food industry.

50. (new) Use of the  
microcrystalline paraffins prepared according to claim 30, in  
the pharmaceutical or cosmetics sector or in the food  
industry.